

Egyptian Regional Human Rights Authority
Meeting Minutes
September 23, 2014

The regular meeting of the Human Rights Authority (HRA) was held at Shawnee Community College, 8364 Shawnee College Road, Ullin, IL. Vice Chairperson Mary McMahan called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. and read the confidentiality statement. A quorum was not present initially for open session, but Rebecca Lewey arrived at 6:30 p.m. and all new case openings were reviewed and acceptance was approved by her. A quorum was present for the remainder of the meeting.

Members Present: Sue Barfield, Pam O'Connor, Ginger McBride, Mary McMahan and Rebecca Lewey

Members Absent: Clarence Russell, Jim Livesay, Al Farmer and Paul Jones

Staff Present: Kim Conway and Gia Orr (Community HRA)

Guests: Serena Loyd (intern with IL. Guardianship & Advocacy Commission), Julie Anderson and Teri Steele

Minutes: Sue Barfield made a motion to approve the July 22, 2014 meeting minutes. Ginger McBride seconded and it carried.

Communications: Kim Conway shared the fiscal year 2014 HRA cases statistics and information on the fall 2014 Illinois Guardianship Association training in Springfield and asked that board members let her know if they want to attend. Kim Conway also discussed that while on a site investigation at a day training facility, the director approached the HRA on an issue of residents of CILA homes being restricted from having certain visitors and private relations in their facilities. She was concerned that this was a rights violation and also was concerned how this impacts their day training facility because that is the only place the clients see each other. The board discussed and decided to research the issue and possibly look at it as a new case in the future. Finally, Kim Conway informed the board that there would be a guest at the November board meeting to present information on a new form of genetic testing which helps determine which medications would be the most beneficial for a person.

Ratifications: None

New Complaints:

15-110-9004 County Jail – Alleges inadequate treatment due to not being able to see a doctor or receive medication refills. A second allegation involved transfer from the jail to a state operated mental health facility and alleges that the Sheriff transferred the recipient to a facility other than what was recommended by his pre-placement evaluation. The board discussed how this might also involve a state agency and whether or not a separate case should be opened regarding this state agency. Mary McMahan made a motion to accept the complaint for investigation, Sue Barfield seconded and it carried.

15-110-9005 State Operated Mental Health Facility – Alleges that a recipient was denied access to rehabilitation class due to refusal to take medication; no restriction of rights forms were given for unit restrictions and property and inadequate treatment due to a recipient not seeing his therapist for 2-3 months and his emergency preferences were not followed. Sue Barfield made a motion to accept the complaint for investigation, Pam O’Conner seconded and it carried.

15-110-9006 State Agency – Alleges that an inadequate discharge planning process occurred when a recipient was transferred from a county jail to state operated mental health facility. This case is related to 15-110-9004. Mary McMahan made a motion to accept the complaint for investigation, Sue Barfield Seconded and it carried.

15-110-9007 State Operated Mental Health Facility – Alleges inadequate treatment due to a recipient not seeing a therapist or having access to group sessions. Pam O’Conner made a motion to accept the complaint for investigation, Ginger McBride seconded and it carried.

Other New Business: Gia Orr presented information on the Community HRA including its goals and purpose and some challenges they are facing with getting it up and running. She also shared that it is scheduled to be voted on by the Commission on September 30th.

Unfinished Business: A motion was made by Pam O’Conner to enter closed session at 7:03 p.m. Ginger McBride seconded and it carried. The board decided that since Paul Jones was absent, there was no need to hold two closed sessions as scheduled since no one else that was present had any conflicts of interest with cases. The following summary of items was discussed in closed session: Case progress was reviewed for cases # 14-110-9015, 15-110-9002, 15-110-9003, 13-110-9039, 14-110-9006, 14-110-9013, 14-110-9017, 14-110-9018, 14-110-9019, 14-110-9020 and 15-110-9001. Draft reports were reviewed for 14-110-9011 and 14-110-9012. Case closures were considered for cases #13-110-9035, 14-110-9009, 13-110-9037, 14-110-9002 and 14-110-9007. Pam O’Conner made a motion to return to open session at 8:34 p.m. having taken no action in closed session, Sue Barfield seconded and it carried.

Case Progress Reports:

14-110-9015 Choate Mental Health and Developmental Center – The site investigation was completed on September 4th. Once the information has been reviewed, it will be ready for report.

15-110-9002 Choate Mental Health and Developmental Center - The site investigation was completed on September 19th. Further information is needed. The case is still under investigation.

15-110-9003 Lawrence Correctional - The site investigation was completed September 17th. Once the information has been reviewed, it will be ready for report.

13-110-9039 - Chester Mental Health – On September 10, 2014 Kim Conway checked with the OIG on the status of their investigation regarding this same recipient and incident. Its investigation has not yet concluded. The HRA may need to review the outcome of the outside

investigation before concluding the case since the allegation involves an inadequate OIG investigative process. The case is still under investigation.

14-110-9006 Chester Mental Health – The interview with the therapist was completed. The case is ready for report.

14-110-9013 Chester Mental Health – The interviews with the therapist and STAs have been completed. The case is ready for report.

14-110-9017 Chester Mental Health – The chart review was completed. The case is ready for report.

14-110-9018 Chester Mental Health – The chart review and staff interviews need to be completed. The case is still under investigation.

14-110-9019 Chester Mental Health – The chart review needs to be completed. The case is still under investigation.

14-110-9020 Chester Mental Health – The chart review and interviews with staff needs to be completed. The case is still under investigation.

15-110-9001 Chester Mental Health – The chart review needs to be completed. The case is still under investigation.

Report of Findings:

14-110-9011 Chester Mental Health – The draft report was reviewed by the board. No changes were suggested. Sue Barfield made a motion to approve the draft report as stated, Pam O’Conner seconded and it carried.

14-110-9012 Chester Mental Health – The draft report was reviewed by the board. Kim Conway reviewed two changes that were made since the board reviewed the initial report. No further changes were suggested. Pam O’Conner made a motion to approve the draft report as stated, Rebecca Lewey seconded and it carried.

Case Closures:

13-110-9035 Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) – Kim Conway drafted a letter to HFS requesting additional information after the July meeting. No response has yet been received from HFS. Kim Conway called the contact person at HFS who informed her that he had not yet given it to their attorney for review but would. The board discussed sending another letter to HFS with a deadline to respond prior to the November HRA meeting. Sue Barfield made a motion to table case closure to allow time for additional information to be received. Ginger McBride seconded and it carried.

14-110-9009 Choate Mental Health and Developmental Center – The board discussed the response received and had some concern over some wording in the revised policy that was provided as part of the response. The board agreed to close the case with a suggestion included in the closure letter to the facility that the wording in the policy be changed slightly. Ginger McBride made a motion to close the case and make the findings a part of the public record, Rebecca Lewey seconded and it carried.

13-110-9037 Chester Mental Health – The board reviewed the facility's response to recommendations and had no additional concerns. Sue Barfield made a motion to close the case and make the findings a part of the public record, Pam O'Conner seconded and it carried.

14-110-9002 Chester Mental Health – The board reviewed the facility's response to recommendations and had no additional concerns. Ginger McBride made a motion to close the case and make the findings a part of the public record, Sue Barfield seconded and it carried.

14-110-9007 Chester Mental Health – There were no substantiated findings therefore no response was required and none was received. Ginger McBride made a motion to close the case and make the findings a part of the public record, Sue Barfield seconded and it carried.

Other Unfinished Business:

The next meeting is scheduled for 5:00 p.m. on November 18, 2014 at Alongi's Italian Restaurant (Meeting Room), 18 W. Main St., DuQuoin, IL.

Sue Barfield made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Ginger McBride seconded and it carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pam O'Connor, Secretary